

COOKE et al.
10/724,244
Page 3

Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please delete paragraph [0050] of the specification and substitute the replacement paragraph [0050] provided immediately below.

[0050] FIG. 7 illustrates a fiber optic distribution cable 20 according to the invention installed within a conventional fiber optic communications network 100. In particular, the optical fibers 34 accessed at one of the predetermined access locations along the fiber optic distribution cable 20 are routed out of the buffer tube transition piece 36 through the corresponding protective tubes 54 into a splice tray 90 within a conventional splice closure 82. The optical fibers 34 are spliced in a known manner with splices 88 to respective optical fibers 77 of a drop cable 76. The closure is provided with a pair of through ports 84 for sealingly receiving the distribution cable 20 and an exit port 86 for sealingly receiving the drop cable 76. Preferably, the drop cable 76 is pre-connectorized and comprises conventional single or multiple fiber connectors 78 for connecting the accessed optical fibers 34 of the distribution cable 20 (via optical fibers 77 of drop cable 76) to respective optical fibers of the communications network within a conventional outside plant closure 80, such as a local convergence cabinet (LCC), a pedestal, a network access point (NAP), or a network interface device (NID) of the types available from Corning Cable Systems LLC of Hickory, NC.